

about 50 per cent when given subcutaneously, and about 30 per cent when given orally. On the other hand, Hesse was unable to find any of these salts unchanged in the urine of rabbits, the hyposulphite being excreted as sulphate. If sulphur and sulphur dioxide are liberated from the hyposulphite in the blood and tissues, as occurs in vitro, it would seem that the drug should not be used intravenously.

The lack of definite knowledge regarding the fate and behavior of the thiosulphate and hyposulphite should enjoin caution in their promiscuous use intravenously in human subjects. A rational basis for their use in the treatment of metallic poisoning does not exist; the experimental evidences are contradictory and the clinical usage is empirical and uncontrolled. The occasional clinical benefits that are reported may be due merely to diuresis, an effect that may be secured equally well by sodium sulphate and other agents. Many other agents and measures have enjoyed temporary successes in the treatment of metallic poisonings. The facts are that confirmed cases of poisoning from the metals resist all kinds of treatment and antidotes, and that no one measure is to be relied upon to the exclusion of others. Unfortunately, it is frequently forgotten that mild cases, and sometimes even severe ones, recover spontaneously without treatment. The reports on the value of thiosulphate in dermatitis from arsphenamine appear to be more consistent, and further experience will, no doubt, determine its efficiency in this condition. It should not be forgotten that the use of thiosulphate in conjunction with arsphenamine may reduce the therapeutic efficiency of the latter. Physicians, of course, may use thiosulphate and hyposulphite by mouth practically with impunity, though without complete reliance on their antidotal value.

Kuhn and Loevenhart: *J. Pharm. Exp. Therap.*, (Pro.) 1925, 25:160.

Kuhn and Reese: *J. Am. Med. Assoc.*, 1925, 85:1804.

Haskell, Henderson and Hamilton: *J. Am. Med. Assoc.*, 1925, 85:1808.

Harrison: *Lancet*, May 30, 1925, p. 1161.

Hesse: *Arch. Exp. Path. Pharm.*, 1925, 107:43.

Nyiri: *Z. ges. exp. Med.*, 1924, 41:381.

Dennie and McBride: *J. Am. Med. Assoc.*, 1924, 83:2082.

Roberts and Hosmer: *Calif. and West. Med.*, 1925, 23:853.

Semon: *Brit. Med. J.*, 1924, 1:662.

HEALTH NEWS AND ETHICS

"Health News," through cupidity or ignorance of its sponsors, may be quite as injurious to public welfare as the practice of the healing art by the incompetent or unscrupulous. Indeed, without access to the public press by propagandists, the practice of quackery would be quickly reduced to an inconsequential minimum. Intelligent, honest publishers whose policies include public service as well as profits, recognize their great responsibility and provide for it through national organizations with codes of ethics comparable in purposes to the "code" to which educated physicians who are members of their county, state and national medical associations subscribe.

The revised ethics of the national organization of business pledges its members to a high moral code of conduct, in its purposes again not unlike the

doctors' code. A growing number of publishers and merchants take their codes seriously and live up to their provisions, but there are still too many who disregard or openly repudiate their ethics.

In this respect publishers and merchants are not unlike doctors, whose code of ethics is the oldest in existence. It is based upon the oath of Hippocrates which in turn was devised from customs that go back to remotest antiquity. This, and all modern codes are amplifications of what we call the Golden Rule. Truth and honesty in advertising; honesty, integrity and fair dealing in business—charity, humanity, intelligent unselfishness in public and personal service. Ethics are standards of morals and manners made effective by moral force applied to those who voluntarily accept them.

Too many doctors, publishers and merchants wear their ethics only as a cloak useful in stormy weather, and even larger numbers refuse to subscribe to the ethics of their vocations and refuse, or are refused, membership in their own organizations, which have the power of discipline of their members in matters of vocational and moral conduct. Laws at their best are extensions of ethics and being universal and mandatory in their application are consequently always upon a much lower moral plane than are the ethics established by groups as expressions of their ideals and enforced by moral influence.

Few intelligent observers will question the statement that the press influences humanity en masse in health matters far more than do the doctors and other health agencies. The increasing number of publishers who are elevating their standards for health news and health advertising constitutes an encouraging sign of facilitated health progress.

THE BUDGET OF LIFE

The most valuable item in the budget of life is the earnings in new lives, which accrue at the rate of about 1½ per cent—roughly two million babies: the most significant expenses are deaths which occur at the rate of about 1 per cent—roughly 1,250,000—annually.

Life in the United States, therefore, is still a "going concern" with its capital and its stockholders on the increase.

But this hopeful showing does not reflect the whole picture because stock in life carries with it assessment liabilities and pension or retirement privileges which must be considered before dividend rates may be established and reserves set up where moth and rust doth not corrupt nor thieves break in and steal.

Every new stockholder comes into life in debt. He has been brought in on borrowed capital and he keeps on borrowing for approximately a third of his life, the loan being secured by certain inheritances and a lot of love and faith.

During the middle third of the period of life's average of sixty years, the investor is permitted to hold his assets, he is expected to pay his debts in installments, produce other stockholders, accumulate savings, make the initial payments on their stock,